

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Schaefer [<mailto:richardlbh2@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2005 11:37 AM
To: MLPAComments@resources.ca.gov
Subject: MLPAComments: Comment

Stop closing areas to public recreation. Environmentalism has run amok long enough.

Article FYI...

-----Original Message-----

From: Richard Schaefer [<mailto:richardlbh2@earthlink.net>]
Sent: Thursday, September 08, 2005 11:40 AM
To: Melissa Miller-Henson
Subject: MLPA comments

MLPA's will close more areas to public use. To what end? Environmentalism has become the state religion.

Article FYI...

Richard Schaefer 8-7-05
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The Editors,
The Log
San Diego

Dear Editors,

It seems every issue of ³The Log² contains one or more articles dealing with environmentalism and it's impact on the boating community. This is as it should be since dogmatic environmentalism is the greatest threat to outdoor recreation, both on and off the water.

I think a little common sense and some perspective might be in order when dealing with ³hysterical environmentalism² which ultimately seeks to eliminate access and recreation in much of the outdoors.

There's been a lot of discussion about copper bottom paints and harbor generated pollution in general. A lot of worried people are running around wanting testing, restrictions and bans. I haven't really heard anyone say what the problem with too much copper is. I remember sucking copper pennies when I was kid (say, that could explain a lot), the vitamins I take have copper in them and I know a lot of folks who wear copper jewelry. However, I'm certain that if we do enough tests and studies we will find that marina bottom sludge, containing trace amounts of copper, is more of a threat to humanity than nuclear or bio-warfare.

Did you ever wonder why, when most people think of a marina, they have visions of some sort of ³Aqualand² with flipper frolicking amid the colorful coral reefs? A harbor or marina is simply a parking lot for boats and ships. When shoppers visit Walmart do they expect to see Bambi browsing the asphalt parking lot? When passengers fly out of an airport do they hope to see Smokey Bear ambling along the

tarmac? No, I think most folks realize that when you pour 6 inches of bubbling tar over acres of land you've pretty much destroyed the ³ecosystem² that once existed there and that there is an ³environmental price² to doing business. But somehow their thinking gets all fuzzy when it comes to a marina and they expect to see a pristine aquatic environment, unimpacted by the thousands of boats parked there.

Allow me to use an extreme example. In August 1944 the greatest marine ³eco-disaster² in history took place in Truk Lagoon in the Pacific. 77 Japanese ships anchored in the lagoon were sunk by thousands of bombs from American warplanes. These ships contained fuel oil, crude oil, explosives, chemicals and thousands of tons of war supplies. Oil still seeps from the sunken hulks to this day. One might expect this to be a Super Fund site. Instead it has become a diverse underwater wonderland and the most popular dive resort in the world.

It might be good to consider these things the next time you hear an environmentalist group worrying over copper bottom paint or a little ³bilge sheen².

Sincerely,

Richard Schaefer